AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A wiring board obtained by coating a copper paste on a ceramic green sheet and firing it to form a conductor layer and an insulating layer, the copper paste comprising a copper powder, an organic vehicle, an SiO_2 particle having an average particle size of ~~less than 50 nm~~ 40 nm or less, and a ceramic particle having an average particle size of 100 nm or less selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3, TiO_2, CeO_2 and mullite.

2. (currently amended): A wiring board obtained by coating a copper paste on a ceramic green sheet and firing it to form a conductor layer and an insulating layer, the copper paste comprising a copper powder, an organic vehicle and an SiO_2 particle in an amount of 0.1 to 5 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of copper powder having an average particle size of 40 nm~~50 nm~~ or less.

3. (canceled).

4. (original): The wiring board according to claim 1, wherein the conductor layer has a resistivity of $3x10^{-6}$ Ω·cm or less.

5. (original): The wiring board according to claim 1, wherein the insulating layer comprises an alkali metal in amount of 0.5 mol% or less in terms of oxide.

6. (currently amended): The wiring board according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic particle is uniformly dispersed in the conductor layer~~conductor layer comprises an inorganic~~

~~material excluding metal having an average particle size of 2 μm or less, the inorganic material being dispersed within the conductor layer~~.

7. (original): The wiring board according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the conductor layer is subjected to a plating treatment.

8. (currently amended): The~~A~~ wiring board according to claim 1, wherein~~comprising a conductor layer containing an inorganic material excluding metal dispersed within the conductor layer, wherein in a cross section in a thickness direction of the conductor layer,~~ a total area of ~~the~~ inorganic material excluding material having a particle size of 2 μm or more is 5% or less of the sectional area of the conductor layer.

9. (currently amended): The~~A~~ wiring board ~~comprising a conductor layer containing an inorganic material excluding metal dispersed within the conductor layer,~~ wherein in a cross section in a thickness direction of the conductor layer, a total area of ~~the~~ inorganic material excluding material having a particle size of 3 μm or more is 2% or less of the sectional area of the conductor layer.

10. (original): The wiring board according to claim 8, wherein a surface of the conductor layer is subjected to a plating treatment.

11. (canceled).

12. (can

13. (canceled).

14 (canceled).

15. (withdrawn-currently amended): A method for producing a wiring board obtained by coating a copper paste on a ceramic green sheet and firing it to form a conductor layer and an insulating layer, the copper paste comprising a copper powder, an organic vehicle, an SiO_2 particle having an average particle size of 40 nm or less~~less than 50 nm~~, and a ceramic particle having an average particle size of 100 nm or less selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3, TiO_2, CeO_2 and mullite, said method comprising the steps of:

coating the copper paste on a ceramic green sheet;

exposing the coated sheet to a wet nitrogen atmosphere at 650 to 900°C so as to remove organic components; and

firing the sheet at 850 to 1,050°C after the exposing.

16. (new): The wiring board according to claim 1, wherein the SiO_2 particle has an average particle size of 30 nm or less.

17. (new): The wiring board according to claim 2, wherein the SiO_2 particle has an average particle size of 30 nm or less.

18. (new): The wiring board according to claim 1, wherein the SiO_2 particle has an average particle size of 5 to 40 nm.

19. (new): The wiring board according to claim 2, wherein a total area of inorganic material excluding metal having a particle size of 2 μm or more is 5% or less of the sectional area of the conductor layer.

20. (new): The wiring board according to claim 2, wherein in a cross section in a thickness direction of the conductor layer, a total area of inorganic material excluding metal having a particle size of 3 μm or more is 2% or less of the sectional area of the conductor layer.